

Growth and development

Town charts a course into the next century

Long-range strategic plan sets down 12 goals

By John Chaffee
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DUXBURY — Selectmen last night unanimously adopted a long-range strategic plan to guide Duxbury into the 21st century.

The plan, which includes a variety of goals and milestones, reflects the priorities of residents who 18 months ago answered the questions in a nine-page questionnaire about Duxbury's future.

The strategic plan also was drafted to complement separate plans already developed by the open space and recreation planning committee and the school committee, and it anticipates a new land-use master plan that will be developed over the next few months by the planning board.

The 26 percent of registered voters who participated in the survey said they wanted Duxbury to retain its rural character, keep its tax rate stable, provide an adequate

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supply of clean drinking water and continue to provide high-quality public schooling.

The plan adopted by the selectmen calls for all that and more.

It sets down 12 goals, ranging from the development of an updated financial plan to finding a permanent home for the council on aging.

"This is something our citizens can look at and agree on," said Selectmen Chairwoman Margaret Kearney, who first proposed a long-range plan three years ago.

In reviewing a revised draft of the plan, which was developed by Town Manager Rocco Longo, Town Planner Thomas Broadrick and consultant Victor DeSantis, the selectmen added one goal and changed a few of the target dates for completion of others.

The added goal, proposed by Selectman Andre Martecchini, is for Longo to convene a workshop of all committees involved in land-use issues: the planning board, the conservation committee, the board of health, the open space and recreation planning committee, the recreation committee, the North Hill advisory committee and the board of appeals.

Martecchini also suggested adding a third objective to the goal of increasing public awareness and participation

in government — the development of a basic information handout on local government that will explain what the various boards and committees do and include an organization chart.

Other goals in the plan include solving the PCE water contamination problem that plagues various parts of town, completing the new public library and reopening the Ashdod district fire station in West Duxbury.

In other business, selectmen:

- Approved use of Train Field for a 24-hour softball game Aug. 23 and 24. The game will be an Easter Seal fund-raiser to benefit children and adults with disabilities.

- Applauded the work of the Fourth of July committee for putting on a highly successful weekend of activities, which included the traditional parade, a bonfire on the beach and an outdoor band concert. Committee Chairman Barry Wirt pledged a repeat performance next year.